

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 14 has been amended to recite that polymer B is different from the polymer A also in the ratio $R(450)/R(550)$. This amendment is supported, for example, at page 5, lines 4-12, of the specification.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended to more clearly define the phrase “wavelength dispersion characteristics” as the ratio $R(450)/R(550)$ for the mixture of the polymers A and B. Such amendment is supported at page 5, lines 7-12, of the specification. Claims 1, 12 and 13 are further amended to define $R(450)$, $R(550)$ and their ratio, which is supported by original claim 2.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, and 17 have been amended to remove the symbols “[“, “[”, “{“, and “}”. Claim 8 has been amended to delete the phrase “in the above formula (II)”, which is a typographical mistake.

Claims 3, 4 and 17 have been amended to remove the phrase “as described above” and replace therefor the definitions of $R(450)$ and $R(550)$, as recited in original claim 2.

Claims 12, 13 and 14 have been amended to change the first word to “A”, thereby reflecting their independent status.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 9 and 12 have been amended to make them more clear by deleting the phrase “in the case that...” and the words “solely” and “respectively”, and replacing therefor language directed to the difference between the $R(450)/R(550)$ of a retardation film made from only the polymer A and the $R(450)/R(550)$ of a retardation film made from only the polymer B.

Claim 12 is also amended to add “polymer A to polymer B” after “the mixing ratio of”, to correct for an inadvertent omission. Support therefor can be found, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15.

New claim 18 has been added. Support therefor can be found, for example, at page 7, line 15, through page 8, line 3.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

A. The Examiner’s Position

The Examiner questions whether the symbols such as "[", "]", "{", "}" in claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, and 17 should be removed, and whether the phrase "in the above formula (II)" in claim 8 should be deleted.

With respect to claims 3-4 and 17, the Examiner suggests removal of the phrase "as described above" and replacement therefor with the definitions of R(450) and R(550), as recited in claim 2.

With respect to claims 12-14, the Examiner suggests replacing "The method for producing the" with -- A method for producing a --.

In claims 1, 12, and 13, the word "desired" and the phrase “wavelength dispersion characteristics” are confusing to the Examiner.

The Examiner also finds confusing the phrase “in the case that” in claims 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12.

In claims 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12 it is not clear to the Examiner as to what "solely" refers to.

In claims 2, 9, and 12 it is not clear to the Examiner as to what "respectively" refers to.

B. Response

Applicants have deleted from claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, and 17 the extraneous symbols and phrase.

The "wherein" clauses of claims 3, 4, and 17 have been replaced with "wherein R(450) and R(550) are each the retardation in the film plane of the retardation film measured at measuring wavelengths of 450 nm and 550 nm", as recited in claim 2.

Applicants have further replaced "The" with "A" for the first word of each of claims 12, 13, and 14, as these are independent claims.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended to more clearly define the phrase "wavelength dispersion characteristics" as the ratio $R(450)/R(550)$ for the mixture of the polymers A and B. Such amendment is supported at page 5, lines 7-12, of the specification. Claims 1, 12 and 13 are further amended to define R(450), R(550) and their ratio, which is supported by original claim 2.

Regarding the rejection on the basis of the phrase "in the case that" and the words "solely" and "respectively", claims 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12 have been amended to make them more clear by reciting the difference between $R(450)/R(550)$ of a retardation film made from only the polymer A and $R(450)/R(550)$ of a retardation film made from only the polymer B.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim objections and rejections have been overcome.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. The Examiner's Position

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 10, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by either Tung (US 4,525,532) or Lazear (US 4,150,170).

Essentially, the Examiner's position is that both Tung and Lazear disclose compositions satisfying conditions (1) and (2) of claims 1 and 14 and the additional proportions of claims 10 and 16.

Furthermore, the Examiner has not taken into consideration the phrase "desired wavelength dispersion characteristics" because he finds it indefinite.

B. Response

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 to recite that polymer B is further different from polymer A in its ratio of R(450)/R(550).

Applicants have further amended the claims to make more clear that the recited phrase "wavelength dispersion characteristics" refers to the ratio R(450)/R(550) for the mixture of the polymers A and B.

Tung discloses mixing two specific copolymers in order to obtain an improved synthetic resinous composition for molding and extrusion which exhibits desirable physical properties.

Lazear discloses a process of producing a film. However, it does not state the use of an organic solvent.

Neither Tung nor Lazear teach or suggest at least the following claimed features: (1) that the mixing ratio of polymer A and B is adjusted so that the film has desired wavelength

dispersion characteristics of retardation, which is the ratio $R(450)/R(550)$ for the mixture of the polymers A and B; (2) that the polymer A is a copolymer comprising repeating units a and b; and (3) that the polymer B is a copolymer comprising the repeating units a and b and is different from the polymer A in copolymerization composition and in the ratio $R(450)/R(550)$.

Furthermore, neither Tung nor Lazear are even about the technical field of the present invention, which is that of retardation films and, more particularly, retardation films having desired wavelength dispersion characteristics.

Thus, neither Tung nor Lazear anticipate nor render obvious the present claimed invention for a retardation film and a method for producing a retardation film using the polymers A and B as claimed in the amended claims.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. The Examiner's Position

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lazear.

The Examiner's position is that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to add to the teachings of Lazear, which is silent on the use of organic solvent, the additional step of claim 11 (dissolving polymers A and B in an organic solvent...) because, according to the Examiner, it is known to adjust the viscosity of a coating composition by using organic solvents.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/018,139

B. Response

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. Thus, Applicants believe that claim 11 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to amended claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

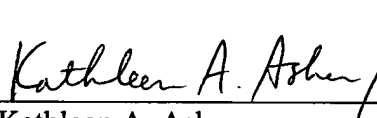
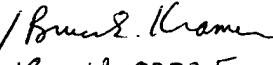
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